



# Fourth Grade Journal

October 2018

## Math

We are on track with our Math curriculum. Chapter 4 was concluded recently, and we practice various properties of multiplication but took special interest in the distributive property of multiplication, drills related to single digit multiplication. Our next goal is to master two-digit multiplication and solve problems using these operations.

## Reading

We are now working on Unit 3 of our Reading curriculum. Throughout this unit we will be working on topics that relate to raising the spirit of empathy and humanity. There will be stories related to friendship, helping communities, patriotism, and how words have impacted on people's lives. In phonics, we will be learning about silent letters, soft "c" with final "e" syllables, plurals, suffixes, syllables, r-controlled vowels, compound words, and root words.

We will be starting a few programs to promote better reading habits. A reading log will come home each week, Raz Reading will be continued, and Literature Circle group discussions are in the works moving forward, in sha Allah.

## Language Arts

We concluded Unit 2: Nouns with several drills and activities to ensure sufficient opportunities for practice and will be working on Unit 3: Verbs, its different forms and functions throughout November.

## Physical Education

In P.E. we will start a new activity known as the pacer test. Students will run laps; each lap will be timed. Students will not be assessed on the number of laps they run, but they will be tested on the effort they display.

## Art

I pray this message reaches you in great health and imaan. I would like to update you about Art class. The students are learning great artistic techniques, problem solving skills, and are portraying immense creativity. Along with these activities they are participating in the school event, STEAM. They also began to work on their fall projects. I felt it was necessary that before students started working on any projects, they went outside to observe the beautiful and variable colors the season of fall is associated with. I was sure that this process would allow for the spark of creativity when using variety of colors. The first project that was created was a collage made with scraps of paper. When this project was completed the class started on a Mandela project. This was a great project to amalgamate core subjects with art and integrate the concept of STEAM. I would also like to announce that two students from ILM Academy were chosen as winners of the Annual Water Conservation Art Calendar of 2019. They are Ameera Qureshi from fourth grade and Nabhan Sophie from eighth grade.

## Islamic Studies

Assalamu Alaykum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuhu,  
Alhamdulillah! All praise to Allah(swt) who enabled us to complete this month of school successfully. Alhamdulillah, we were able to do the story on how Quraysh tried to hurt the prophet, Hijrah, building the mosque and students showed a lot of interest and enthusiasm learning the same. Alhamdulillah!

For the coming month in sha Allah we plan to do several more lessons on “courage” in the Battle of Badr, The Battle of Uhud and engaging them in assessments, activities, and projects. In sha Allah.

We pray that Allah (swt) puts Barakah in our time and make our students righteous leaders of the believers, Ameen.

## Arabic

Another month has passed by...where fourth graders are excited and waiting for writing a letter to a friend for Unit 2 project. They have learned about adjectives while reading and understanding the letter “Nawal” has sent to her friend Haleemah! They learned about the city of Paris and the most popular places there (vocabulary words). They practiced reading and writing sentences, 4<sup>th</sup> graders can differentiate the two kinds of sentences (ismiyyah & fi’liyyah) with examples.

## Qur'an

**The fourth-grade students are working hard this month with Suratul-Insan. They practiced general meanings and some keywords for this Surah. Students also did some activities and play games related to the surah. They are currently on Ayah 20, masha'Allah.**

## Technology

**Students were introduced to the various features of Google Slides. The features will help make presentations more organized. They will now use what they have learned to create an interactive digital storybook using Google Slides. They will write, design, and create everything from scratch. The objective of this project is to be able to work as a team to meet deadlines and use technology to make storytelling interactive.**

## Social Studies

**In an attempt to make sure that our Math and ELA curriculum is up to mark, we were forced to sacrifice some of our Social Studies instructional time. Once back on track, we redirected our focus on Social Studies. Chapter 2 of Social Studies was concluded last week. The curriculum is all about the geography of the United States of America. In chapter 1 and 2, we took a brief account of general landforms, climate, natural resources, and the economy of our nation. Next, we will be exploring the regions and our neighboring countries. In our class, the most learning happens while debating and arguing from different positions and on a variety of topics. With the midterm elections being a hot topic, those uninterested are also drawn in into expressing their perspective about the current climate of the nation. Masha'Allah, my students are very well informed, and their debate points are mind-boggling. We do have a blast in class regardless of the outcome!**

## Science

**Chapter 1: Energy and Heat kept us going all month in October. We concluded the Skills Handbook part 2 section of our Science textbook. Many STEAM based experiments were demonstrated and performed in class. We explored the science behind surface tension, tested and compared two different airplane design models for maximum distance covered, evaluated the results and went back to the design tables to reevaluate our designs. We worked on a pendulum, made observations, and collected data as the size of the string varied across several trails. We worked on varying surfaces an independent variable while measuring the height of the distance the ball went up to on a meter scale. Many trials were conducted until we were able to see a pattern. Alhamdulillah, it has been quite exciting.**

**During the month of September, we were comparing the Scientific Method with the Engineering Design process. Some students were able to understand that one is not independent of the other but are complementary. The discipline and process involved in executing the Scientific method, through several model experiments done in class helped to establish the procedure in the Engineering Design process. We discussed the problem of finding a natural ‘solution’ to the toxic chemical brands that are used in our kitchen. We created mud tablets by smothering dirt on our tiny white lap boards. These were then left out in the open to dry for a few weeks in the meantime, we worked on creating a bio-friendly cleaner (aka – Mr. Clean). The ‘Bio-Friendly’ cleaner was with common household ingredients like baking soda, vinegar, oils, etc. Each group used different proportions of the ingredients and added more based on their group design. We tested each sample to see if the mud boards were satisfactory clean.**

**For our second STEAM project, we started off by finding a problem that needed a solution. The fifth-grade neighbors next door were allotted personal cabinet lockers and my students wanted their own. In comparison to own sad wooden cubbies the shiny metal lockers looked great! On closer inspection of the situation, we realized that the only technical difference is that our cubbies did not have doors. So, the challenge this time was to design a door using material in class. The door had to be sturdy, flexible, provide easy access to books or supplies and to be able to lock with a key. Students came up with incredible designs. They tested and retested their designs. While some are at peace with their creation, others are still working on it.**

**We are currently working on designing a CEV or Crew Exploration Vehicle that will help astronauts explore other planets once they make a successful landing. More details will follow in our next issue, in sha Allah.**

**Check out all the amazing pictures of fourth grade here:**

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/MxcwgbhDzLqe6ehS7>